

**LEEK TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the General Purposes Committee**  
**held Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

**Chairman:** Cllr. Tomkinson

**Present:** Cllrs: Atkins, Coleman, Emery, Harrison, Johnson, Lovatt,  
Podmore, Povey, Wales & Wood

8 members of the public were present

40. **Minutes of the Meeting** held 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017 were received for Chairman's signature.

41. **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Interests and consideration for the granting of Dispensations** Cllr. Johnson declared a personal and pecuniary interest in Neighbourhood Planning and would retire from the meeting. Cllr. Harrison declared an interest in Allotment Plot 9B as the tenant is a relative.

42. **Monthly reports/updates:**

i) Allotments - As plot 9B has not been cultivated a Notice To Quit will be served and a gate in the boundary fence will be unnecessary.

ii) Events – A request for sponsorship will be made to Leek United Building Society to replace the three sets of damaged tree lights on the St Edward Street tree, which will cost £500.

Thanks were received from the Billerettes for the £250.00 donation to the Billerettes Charity from the Great Get Together event.

iii) Friends of the Nicholson War Memorial – The guided tours start from April to September on the first Sunday and third Saturday. Details will be given at the next meeting regarding the commemoration of the centenary of the end of WW1.

It was resolved to refurbish Ball Haye Green War Memorial plaques for £580.00 in time for the centenary. Quotes will be obtained to clean the arch. It was noted that general heritage advice is to clean structures as little as possible. The algae growing on the top of the Nicholson War Memorial reflects the town's clean air.

43. **Finance/Audit**

a) **Payment of Accounts** In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 section 5 (150), the following were accepted for payment.

b) **Financial Statement** The Income and Expenditure Statement for nine months to 31st December 2017 was received.

c) **Donation request** It was resolved to donate £130 to the Foxlowe Arts Centre for a defibrillator battery and a recommendation would be made to locate it outside the building.

*Cllr. Johnson vacated the chamber*

44. **Neighbourhood Plan** Information regarding neighbourhood plans was received regarding producing a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for Leek.

Councillors comments included:

A NP will be good for Leek and encourage community involvement

The town council should not stand in the way of a group of energetic volunteers

Biddulph received funding for a NP

A NP has legal force and SMDC will be obliged to take it into account

A number of residents in Birchall would like a NP

Previous public consultation made to SMDC has been ignored

SMDC is the planning authority and a NP has to align with agreed policies

Leek has a Master Plan that went out to public consultation

Professional volunteers are needed to produce a NP

A NP will not differ much from the Local Plan

10% of parishes that have NPs end up with more houses

It is unnecessary as Leek is a successful town

It would be a significant cost to the town council and take up officer time

There is no real demand for a NP and they only last for 5 years

A proposal was made to give permission to the group to go ahead with producing a Neighbourhood Plan.

A named vote was taken and the decisions were as follows:

Cllr. Atkins – for

Cllr. Coleman- for

Cllr. Emery – against

Cllr. Harrison – for

Cllr. Lovatt- for

Cllr. Podmore – against

Clr. Povey – against

Cllr. Tomkinson – for

Cllr. Wales – for

Cllr. Wood – for

It was resolved to carry out a Neighbourhood Plan.

45. **Benches** the minutes from the meeting of the Benches Working Group held 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 were received. A request of £5,000 has been made to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council for the transfer of 21 benches to the town council. In addition, £2,000 has been included in the draft precept if the benches are to be refurbished over a 3 year cycle.
46. **Correspondence** Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – The details of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee’s Cumulative Impact Policy were received. Any comments to be made by 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
47. **Exclusion of the Public** - The Chairman moved: “That in accordance with section 19 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by reason of the confidential nature of the business next to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the Meeting”.
48. **Confidential**
- i) Repairs to Bank House – It was resolved the town council would pay for the building repairs but Support Staffordshire would reimburse the town council when the order is placed.
  - ii) Allotment purchase – It was decided an offer would not be made for the allotment on Ball Haye Green.

iii) Rental of the district council's Country Stores for storage facilities would be pursued.

49. **To receive items for information** To report matters for information not on the agenda and to raise items for future agendas.

i) Land at Russell Street – It was noted that the revised quote to landscape the land is an additional £768.00, bringing the total cost to £8,384.

ii) Staffordshire County Council – The proposed traffic calming scheme on Spring Gardens and Beggars Lane was considered. Councillors made the following comments:

The residents agree with the proposed scheme  
The current cushions are ineffective  
Staffordshire County Council intend to go ahead with the scheme

Chairman.....Date.....